UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

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## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNHCR and UNPROFOR humanitarian convoy finally reaches Bihac pocket; additional relief convoys on way to area.

+ Croatian Government says it will support proposal suspending most sanctions on Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) if certain conditions met.

+ Secretary-General appeals to political leaders in Burundi to continue dialogue and political compromise; international community expresses serious concern with situation in country.

+ United Nations trust fund established for legislative and parliamentary elections in Haiti; United States pledges $10 million for electoral assistance.

+ UNAMIR Radio begins broadcasting in Kigali; Special Representative says broadcasts will provide factual information of situation in country and refugee camps, as well as United Nations goals and activities.

+ Human Rights Commission hears calls for increased protection for clandestine immigrants and an end to restrictions on fundamental rights of migrant workers.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) have managed to get their critical humanitarian convoy into the Bihac pocket. According to a United Nations spokesman, the 10-truck convoy came under fire as it crossed the front line into the government-controlled southern section of Bihac, but nobody was injured.

The UNHCR estimates the convoy of food and medical supplies will meet the needs of the people in the Bihac "safe area" for one day. Another three convoys will travel to the area in the next three days.

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For information media—not an official record

The Croatian Government has said it is willing to support the proposal suspending most sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) if certain conditions are met. Croatia's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mario Noble, cited three conditions: there must be strict international control of the relevant international borders; the international border control must be complimented by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and all five states of the former Yugoslavia must be recognized as equal successors.

The proposal was made by the Contact Group (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States). It would offer the suspension, but not the lifting, of most sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) if it recognized the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and Croatia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed again to political leaders in Burundi to continue the spirit of dialogue and political compromise which presided during the signing of the Convention of Government Agreement of 10 September 1994. A United Nations spokesman said today that the international community was seriously concerned with the political situation in Burundi where tensions had increased following the recent resignation of the Prime Minister.

The Secretary-General said his Special Representative, Ould Abdullah, with whom he was in constant contact, would be at the disposal of Burundi's leaders to offer whatever assistance was necessary to help them overcome the difficulties their country was going through.

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A United Nations trust fund will be set up for electoral assistance in Haiti, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Senior officials from the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the United States who took part yesterday in a trilateral conference with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They agreed on details of the technical assistance they will give during the country's legislative and parliamentary elections. The United States has pledged $10 million of which $2.3 million has already been disbursed.

During the conference, judicial reform and preparations for the transition from the multinational force to UNMIH were also discussed. It was agreed that the efficiency of the new Haitian police force would be crucial for the success of the operation. President Aristide expressed his appreciation to all the countries which had supported Haiti in its return to democracy, the spokesman said.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) began broadcasting today from Kigali. UNAMIR Radio will initially broadcast four hours daily, in Kinyarwanda, French and English. Special Representative Shaharyar Khan said since there was no television or press in Rwanda, people relied on radio for information. The objective of UNAMIR Radio was to project a factual image of what was happening in Rwanda and the refugee camps, and to inform people of the goals and activities of the Organization, thereby helping to promote national reconciliation.

In a United Nations Radio interview, Mr. Khan said that in the past six weeks, UNAMIR had closed down 40 per cent of the camps for internally displaced persons, and had assisted 150,000 out of a total of 350,000 of those people to return home. He called the achievements of the recent round-table Conference in Geneva "very, very positive" with some $640 million pledged in assistance for Rwanda.

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Several speakers addressing the Commission on Human Rights have called for increased protection for clandestine immigrants and an end to restrictions on the fundamental rights of migrant workers. The Commission was continuing its debate on minority rights, migrant workers' rights and religious intolerance. It also considered obstacles to the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Such obstacles included forced repatriation, arbitrary deportations and unjustified confiscations of entry documents.

The representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom said the situation of migrant women was characterized by triple discrimination. The women were foreigners, often economically underprivileged and subject to gender-specific oppression, including sexual abuse and harassment. Special efforts were needed to improve the working and living conditions of migrant sex workers, she said.

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